(19) Europäisches Patentamt
European Patent Office
Office européen des brevets

(11) Publication number : **0 491 517 A3**

(12) EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(21) Application number : **91311451.8**

(51) Int. Cl.[5] : **G06F 15/40,** G06F 15/403

(22) Date of filing : **10.12.91**

(30) Priority : **17.12.90 US 628543**

(43) Date of publication of application :
24.06.92 Bulletin 92/26

(84) Designated Contracting States :
DE FR GB

(88) Date of deferred publication of search report :
23.06.93 Bulletin 93/25

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(54) Tree structure representation of an SQL clause.

(57) A system and method for graphically representing a WHERE or HAVING clause of an SQL query directed to a relational database. Logical operators are defined and linked to predicates using a tree structure format (23). The tree is not binary in character and consequently exhibits a 1 :1 relation between the predicates and tree leaves. The tree structure representation provides intuitive feedback to the user defining the query. Preferably the SQL format (24) and tree structure graphic format (23) queries appear simultaneously on the video display of the computer system used to define the query.

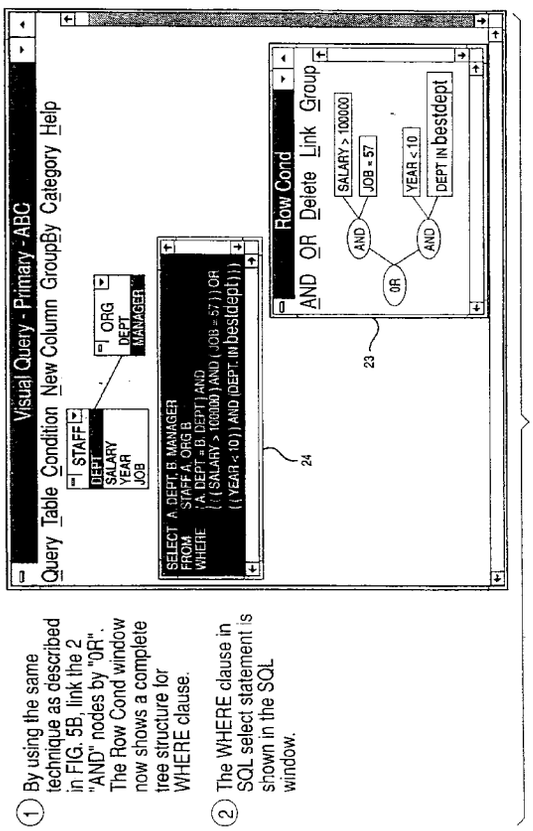

FIG. 5E

EP 0 491 517 A3

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 91 31 1451

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.5)
A	1988 IEEE WORKSHOP ON VISUAL LANGUAGES 10 October 1988, PITTSBURGH, US pages 14 - 20 CZEJDO B. ET AL : 'Design and Implementation of an interactive graphical query interface for a relational database management system' * page 17, column 1, line 1 - page 19, column 2, line 1; figures 1-3 *	1,6,10	G06F15/40 G06F15/403
A	IEEE SOFTWARE vol. 7, no. 6, November 1990, LOS ALAMITOS US pages 63 - 68 T. ICHIKAWA ET AL : 'Iconic Programming: Where to Go ?' * page 64, column 3, line 10 - line 43; figure 2 *	1,6,10	
D,A	IBM TECHNICAL DISCLOSURE BULLETIN. vol. 32, no. 5B, October 1989, NEW YORK US pages 368 - 375 'Method of detecting atomic boolean factors'	1,6,10	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.5) G06F

The present search report has been drawn up for all claims

Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner
THE HAGUE	21 APRIL 1993	FOURNIER C.D.J.

CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS

X : particularly relevant if taken alone
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D : document cited in the application
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EPO FORM 1503 03.82 (P0401)